



DEVAL L. PATRICK  
GOVERNOR

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY  
LT. GOVERNOR

KEVIN M. BURKE  
SECRETARY

*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Executive Office of Public Safety and Security*  
*Department of Fire Services*

*P.O. Box 1025 ~ State Road*

*Stow, Massachusetts 01775*

*(978) 567~3100 Fax: (978) 567~3121*



STEPHEN D. COAN  
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

THOMAS P. LEONARD  
DEPUTY STATE FIRE MARSHAL

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

December 3, 2008

**CONTACT:**

Jennifer Mieth, (978) 567-3381  
Amy Dominici, (617) 680-5106

**GOVERNOR PATRICK PRESENTS 19<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
“FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR” AWARDS**

BOSTON – Wednesday, December 3, 2008 – Governor Deval L. Patrick and Undersecretary of Public Safety and Security Kurt Schwartz today honored Massachusetts’ firefighters for heroic acts of bravery during the 19th annual “Firefighter of the Year” Awards ceremony at historic Faneuil Hall.

“I am honored to be able to express my gratitude to these brave individuals and to their families,” said Governor Patrick. “Your exceptional service is in keeping with the proud traditions of your profession.”

Governor Patrick and Undersecretary Schwartz presented 23 awards: two Medals of Honor to the families of fallen Boston firefighters; seven Medals of Valor to individual firefighters from Brookline, Fall River, Milton and Saugus; and seven Individual Awards for Meritorious Conduct to firefighters from Boston, Falmouth, Gloucester, Hull, Swampscott and two from Saugus. The Community Service award was presented to a Beverly firefighter.

Six Group Awards for Meritorious Conduct were awarded to teams of firefighters from Fall River, Gloucester, Hyannis, Rockland, Saugus and Stoughton.

Undersecretary Schwartz said, “Secretary Burke and I are proud to work shoulder to shoulder with these courageous firefighters and to help provide the training and the resources to make sure everyone goes home.”

State Fire Marshal Stephen Coan presented the Fire Marshal's award to National Fire Protection Association President James M. Shannon for the work of the Coalition for Fire Safe Cigarettes™ and to the Board of Directors of the Fallen

*Administrative Services • Hazardous Materials Response*  
*Massachusetts Firefighting Academy • Office of the State Fire Marshal*

Firefighters Memorial for their efforts to erect a permanent memorial at the State House.

A special Excellence in Leadership award was presented to Everett firefighters for their handling of the gasoline tanker truck fire last year.

There was also a special salute honoring firefighters who have been deployed to the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Fire Marshal Coan said, "Through the fire marshal's award we recognize and thank people from outside the fire service that have rendered a service to the firefighting profession or whose efforts have made the Commonwealth safer from fire."